



Arizona Department of Public Safety **DIGEST**

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Much needed facility

At right is a computer generated image of what the new DPS crime laboratory in Tucson will look like. The facility, which will replace the agency's small, outdated crime laboratory lab in Tucson, is expected to open in two years and will make it possible to conduct tests that couldn't be performed in southern Arizona before. The new lab will also provide faster turn-around times for test results and much needed space for DPS' crime lab employees.



DPS obtains nearly \$18 million to build new crime lab in Tucson

The 40,000 square-foot facility, funded through a fraud settlement, should open in two years

by Kellen Chavez, Digest Staff Writer
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Years of backlogged casework as a result of an aging, highly inadequate work area for DPS crime lab employees in Tucson has an end in sight after Gov. Janet Napolitano officially announced plans for the construction of a new Tucson crime lab.

Napolitano held a press conference to make the announcement at the Department's Tucson headquarters on Wednesday, Dec. 27, along with DPS personnel and Arizona government officials.

The Arizona Attorney General's Office recently closed a fraud case on a company called C.P. Direct. The mail-order company made millions of dollars selling fake penis and breast enhancement pills.

Laws allowed for over \$17 million seized from the company by authorities to be committed to the construction of the new DPS crime lab facility in Tucson.

Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard said, "This is an unprecedented amount of seized funds. The case and conviction

moved very quickly and allowed us to jumpstart this process."

Napolitano said the plans are to break ground in the summer of 2007 and have the new lab up and functional in two years.

The current DPS crime lab in Tucson, which is 27 years old, has seen a 300 percent increase in workload over the past seven years. The new lab will accommodate five to seven new personnel to help with the ever increasing number of cases in southern Arizona.

DPS Director Roger Vanderpool said, "With Arizona now being the fastest growing state, this new lab will finally be able to handle the increasing workload that comes with an increasing population."

The new lab will be over four times larger than the current lab.

Ed Heller, Regional Crime Lab Manager for Tucson, said, "The current lab was built for five to six people but currently houses a staff of 25. The current facility hampers efficiency."

The new lab will also be a product of

careful design to make the facility as efficient as possible. The current facility is merely a converted warehouse and lacks the efficiency of a building specifically designed for lab work.

DPS Media Relations Officer James Oien of Tucson said, "The blueprint of the current lab is exactly the same as it was when I came on with the Department in 1979."

The overall beneficiaries of the new crime lab, however, will be the public. Napolitano said, "This new facility will allow for violent crimes to be addressed immediately."

The new crime lab will provide services and facilities that have been much needed but never present in the southern part of the state.

Tucson will be able to conduct DNA testing which is currently only available in Phoenix. This includes the DNA testing of bones, which has become a vital tool in unidentified remains cases, and Y-STR DNA analysis of male chromosomes in relevant sexual assault cases.

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**From Director
Roger L. Vanderpool's
*Vantage Point***



As you will learn from reading the article on page 5 of this issue of *The Digest*, Arizona is finally starting to make significant strides in remedying some of the dangerous "interoperability" shortcomings with its aging emergency services communications system.

The ongoing effort to advance Arizona's emergency services communications system by ensuring it will meet all of the critical interoperability needs of the state's first responders is quite historic and will significantly decrease the risks faced by public safety personnel and citizens during emergencies.

I wholeheartedly agree with a telecommunications engineer involved in the challenging, long-term effort who recently said, "I don't think a communications project could really be any more important than this."

I would like to take this time to thank the men and women behind this effort, especially those with the Arizona Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC), who are working extremely hard to bring a new, robust emergency services communications system to Arizona.

The system being designed will enable real-time, interoperable communications between local, county, state, tribal, and federal public safety entities in the State of Arizona to effectively protect lives and property for generations to come.

With continued support and funding, the PSCC can keep showing us just how well first responders from multiple, distinct public safety agencies can work together to protect the public when they can talk directly to one another via an emergency services communications system in real-time and without complicated workarounds.

For your health Make stretching part of your life

by Officer Jason Yeager, DPS Health and Wellness Coordinator

Stretching is one of those things that many of us simply take for granted. Most of us believe that the only time we should be stretching is prior to exercise. In actuality this is very untrue; there are many more reasons to adopt a stretch routine. Stretching has many benefits regardless of your activity level or lack thereof. Stretching can be helpful before exercise, after exercise, as a form of exercise, for physical therapy, stress relief and more.

We will address some of the benefits now;

Exercise Pre/Post

The most common time that people believe stretching is necessary is prior to exercise. This is absolutely a valid time to stretch. To minimize and/or prevent the risk of injury, stretching to warm up muscles should be included as part of any physical activity. At a minimum you should stretch the muscles that you know or believe you will utilize for your period of activity. There is no harm in stretching a muscle you won't be using.

Stretching does a couple things; it loosens the muscles, lubricates your joints, and allows for greater flexibility and range of motion during activity. All of these factors allow for bigger gains during exercise and a smaller chance for injury. By stretching after your activity you are able to achieve maximum expansion and release lactic acid to reduce muscle soreness and overall recovery time.

As a form of Exercise

Stretching can also be a workout all in itself. Exercise techniques like Yoga and Pilates have become mainstream and are offered at many health clubs and other public and private classes. Deep stretching and controlled breathing can work muscles, strengthening muscle groups in your core and lower back, helping to keep the rest of your body in balance. If you choose to take one of these classes be sure to focus on mechanics and technique. Many public classes that do not manage their class size alter techniques and lack the time and amount of instructors to make sure mechanics are being learned properly, all which reduce effectiveness and could even lead to injury. If you do not have time or money to attend a class, simple stretching and light calisthenics can be a good beginner workout or replacement on the days you just can't make it to the gym. Most types of physical therapy are comprised of stretches, resistance bands and light weights. They prescribe these activities because they encourage muscle growth and repair. Getting oxygen and movement, muscles are able to repair themselves quicker than leaving them sedentary.

For purposes of Stress Relief:

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The Digest is published monthly by the DPS Community Outreach and Education Program for DPS employees and retirees.

Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail (mail drop 3350), EMS or Telephone (602-223-2545).

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The Digest can be accessed directly from the DPS World Wide Web home page at <http://www.azdps.gov/digest>.

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DPS Detective David Platt receives prestigious award from the FBI

At a large ceremony on January 12 at the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix, the FBI presented DPS Detective David Platt with their highly prestigious FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

Since 1990, the FBI has publicly recognized the achievements of special individuals or organizations in the United States that have made significant contributions in the area of anti-terrorism, drug prevention, assisting in the dismantlement of criminal organizations, and/or violence education/prevention.

From a list of highly competitive nominees, the Director of the FBI selects an individual from the Field Office's territory who has had an exemplary impact on their community in the fight against these crimes/criminals, and then awards them the distinguished "Director's Community Leadership Award."

Phoenix FBI Special Agent in Charge (SAC) John E. Lewis, DPS Director Roger Vanderpool, DPS Deputy Director David Felix, Chief Michael Longman of DPS' Criminal Investigation Division, and Detective Platt's squad members, welcomed several members of the media to witness the presentation of this prestigious award.

FBI Special Agent in Charge John E. Lewis stated, "It is a remarkable person who will so unselfishly serve our community with their time outside of what earns them a pay check.

Detective Platt serves our community not only through his employment but uses his work experience off duty extending guidance and a helping-hand to those in need which only furthers the impact he personally exerts against violent crime and gang activity."

Detective David Platt, a twenty year veteran of DPS, has been a member of the FBI Violent Street Gang Task Force (VSGTF) since July 1999. During his tenure on the task force, Detective Platt has been instrumental in high profile cases investigated by the VSGTF targeting gangs such as the Arizona New Mexican Mafia, the Hells Angels, and the Arizona Aryan Brotherhood Gang.

Additionally, Detective Platt is a member of the state wide gang task force known as Gang Immigration and Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM). Detective Platt has represented the GIITEM Gang Unit in public venues explaining how GIITEM operates and how it can assist with neighborhood programs & enforcement activities.

Through his work with the FBI and GIITEM, Detective Platt consistently provides gang awareness to valley students



Proud moment

DPS Detective David Platt (right) accepts the prestigious FBI Director's Community Leadership Award on Jan. 12 from Phoenix FBI Special Agent in Charge John E. Lewis. Platt, a twenty year DPS veteran, was chosen for the award for having an extraordinary impact on his community both on and off duty.

from elementary school to high school. He also trains teachers on how to recognize possible gang type activity and graffiti awareness, by watching notebooks and papers that are turned in or seen in the classroom.

Detective Platt is dedicated to FBI Phoenix Division's Community Outreach efforts by instructing groups of Junior Special Agents at Nevitt Elementary, Tempe, AZ and Sacaton Middle School, located on the Gila River Indian Reservation on the dangers of gang related activities.

In doing so, Detective Platt has developed a wonderful rapport with the students to the extent they are willing to share their gang related experiences with him as they look to him for guidance.

Detective Platt's community service does not stop within the scope of his employment. He is a soccer coach at Magnet Traditional School and Vacation Bible school sports camps, as well as for the Clarendon Little League.

He is a mentor to a teen group at Monte Vista Church of the Nazarene, which includes listening and offering insight to teens looking for answers to troubling issues.

He has provided his time to aid the elderly and low income families with home repairs and flooring needs, and participates in a men's ministry program that travels to Sonora, Mexico, to build homes for families

in need.

Detective Platt has also traveled to the Ukraine twice to help the House of James project in effort to build an orphanage.

It is Platt's continuous and highly generous giving on and off duty that captured the attention of his agency, his co-workers, and ultimately the FBI who presented him with this prestigious and rare award.

Crime lab ...

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The new crime lab will also be able to process toxicology cases, a function that has only been available in Phoenix which has created two-week waiting periods for case results.

Blood toxicology, for both drugs and metabolites, is crucial in vehicular homicide and DUI cases.

Additionally, the new facility will have a range to test fire weapons for ballistic comparisons as well as a garage designed for handling vehicle cases such as hit-and-runs and undocumented alien transportation.

The announcement that funds had become available to build the new crime lab in Tucson resulted in a collective sigh of relief at DPS because the agency had been trying to secure funding to build the facility for quite some time.

Employees from DPS give to less fortunate during the holidays

The end of the year is full of holiday activities, usually involving plenty of food, many a gift, too few hours in a day and sharing with family.

Department of Public Safety employees and their families had a way of making the holidays even more special on countless different occasions this past holiday season by giving to the less fortunate.

In fact, it would take up this entire issue of *The Digest* to list all of the holiday charitable events DPS employees were involved in during the 2006 holiday season.

However, below are details about two rather unique holiday charitable events involving DPS employees that deserve recognition in the shadow of the Department's more high-profile annual events such as its AHPA Christmas Teddy Bear program.

On November 20, 2006, DPS employees and family members, numbering 25 in all, each volunteered two and one half hours of their valuable time to help the United Food Bank of Mesa by packing food boxes. Thanks to the generous donations placed in the food boxes by employees, the non-perishable food products were also delivered to the food bank for later distribution.

By 9:00 p. m. 300 food boxes containing over 2,000 meals had been prepared by the volunteers. The food bank was very grateful. Although it made for a long day, the best part was the fun the participants had because it did not feel like work, just a great time spent with friends, giving back.

On December 14, 2006, DPS Phoenix Communications Center day shift personnel as well as several officers helped bring joy to others. The dispatchers contacted an FOP member to see if the organization would be interested in donating funds to help purchase 15 microwave ovens for the Domestic Older Victims Empowerment and Safety program (DOVES), a domestic violence shelter for elderly people. The dispatchers were collecting money to put to-



Spreading joy

This group of employees from DPS (along with some of their family members) paused for a photograph shortly after donating large quantities of food and several brand new microwave ovens to a domestic violence shelter just prior to Christmas. Their holiday donations to the shelter typified the type of selfless giving demonstrated by hundreds of DPS employees during the 2006 holiday season. From left to right (in back row) are Bill and Terri Westsik, Carrie and Kelly Stubblefield, Jeff and Kevin Baum. In the front row (from left) are Jeromy Neumann, Jake Pruet, Pete White, Sandy Othon, Anna Baum, and Tanya Veach.

ward the purchase of the microwaves and non-perishables for the shelter's community pantry.

The FOP/FOPA donated enough money to purchase all of the microwaves and agreed to donate to the shelter the second gathering of non-perishable foods donated by DPS employees. The dispatchers had raised \$240.00 and with the generous donation by the FOP/FOPA to purchase the microwaves, those funds were presented to the shelter to go towards the purchase of a computer desk for their community room.

Upon arrival at the shelter, 12 DPS employees were greeted by personnel and sev-

eral happy and excited tenants. Everyone was introduced and Anna Baum, DPS spokesperson and organizer of the event, read a letter explaining the group's activities and accomplishments. DPS officers and dispatchers went door to door delivering and setting up the new microwave ovens and transporting any old ones to storage.

When all items were in place, the volunteers were invited to partake of refreshments, provided by the shelter. In the end, it seems the DPS employees and family members may have gotten the greater reward from these events than the recipients: Giving is so much better than receiving!

DPS' war on illegal drugs heats up during the past few months

Uniformed and non-uniformed officers with DPS have played key roles in the seizure of thousands of pounds of illegal drugs during the past few months. Following are brief summaries of some of the larger, more interesting drug busts involving officers from DPS that have occurred recently.

DPS officer on a tear

On December 9, District 4 Highway Patrol Officer Jason Lord was involved in a pursuit that ended without injuries on SR 85 at milepost 5. The suspect vehicle exited the highway and drove through the right of way

fence and the suspects fled on foot into the desert. Once backup arrived, Officer Lord secured the vehicle and discovered 275.5 pounds of marijuana. On December 12, Officer Lord stopped a 2001 Volvo for unsafe lane use on SR 85 and upon contact with the driver he detected and observed bundles of marijuana. Two suspects were arrested and 225 pounds of marijuana and the vehicle were seized. On December 30, Officer Lord attempted to stop a 1999 Oldsmobile for speed on SR 85 near milepost 120. Three male subjects bailed out of the vehicle and

fled into the desert. Officer Lord found three large bundles of marijuana in the vehicle weighing a total of 139 pounds. The vehicle and marijuana were seized.

Large load of cocaine seized

On December 22, Northern K-9 Officer John McFarland arrested two subjects for narcotics violations on I-17 at milepost 285. During the traffic stop for following too close numerous indicators of drug trafficking were observed. Officer McFarland used his canine "Donja" on an exterior sniff resulting in

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New interagency radio system proves highly useful during jailbreak

Use of system by DPS officers, others showcased incredible benefits of interoperability

On a cold, crisp afternoon in early November, four prisoners executed a rather brazen escape from the annex to the Mohave County Jail located on the west-ern side of Kingman, Arizona.

The incident, which proved to be a bit unnerving for those residing near the small detention facility, prompted one of the first lengthy, unscheduled activations of the new Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) in the region.

This system was recently established through the work of several entities, including the Arizona Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC), the DPS Wireless Systems Bureau, and the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs.

It was created to provide the state's first responders with interim-term interoperability improvements while the long-term process of building a much more advanced, next-generation interoperable public safety radio system occurs.

The PSCC, which operates under the DPS organizational umbrella, is hard at work planning and building the more advanced, robust communications system that will meet the critical interoperability needs of the state's first responders for generations to come.

In the end, the interim AIRS radio system, which will be fully configured for statewide use on May 1, was activated for roughly three hours following the jail break.

It provided the 45 to 50 officers from the three separate law enforcement agencies that responded to the Nov. 2 incident with the ability to talk directly to each other in real-time while they conducted an aggressive, coordinated search for the escapees.

Thanks to the new system, these officers were not forced to make guesses as to what another agency's officers were doing or how the overall search was proceeding as a result of being stuck on their own agency-specific radio systems.

The interoperability provided by AIRS during the incident especially helped when first responders from the three agencies had to work closely together to coordinate tasks like the creation of effective, solid perimeters.

"The shared system (AIRS) worked extremely well and allowed us to interoperate and ultimately use our first responder resources more strategically," said Lt. Ron Delong, who commands DPS' highway patrol force in the Kingman-area. "It was a very new experience for first responders in this area. We have never had the ability to communicate on that level and coordinate that many officers from different agencies."

Specifically, Delong said the use of AIRS let those coordinating the exhaustive search effort know exactly how many first responders were assisting, what agency they were from, and where they were located at any given moment.

"Overall, the jailbreak proved to be a very good trial run of AIRS, especially because we used it to ensure we did not have officers from different agencies duplicating efforts by looking in the same place for the escapees," Delong said. "We have had several major incidents occur in Kingman in years past where we didn't know what officers or other first responders we had running around



AIRS coverage area

A conservative estimate of the AIRS coverage area is represented by the green (or dark) colored portions of this map.

and what they were doing. That was because each agency couldn't communicate this easily with another agency's personnel."

Several of Delong's highway patrol officers participated in the search along with officers from the Kingman Police Department and the Mohave County Sheriff's Office.

Supervisors from these agencies made the decision to activate AIRS and place all of their officers on the shared system as soon as it was determined that real-time interoperability was needed to conduct a safe, efficient and coordinated search.

Considering it was one of the very first times AIRS was used during an unscheduled major multi-agency incident in Arizona, the process of systematically getting officers quickly placed onto the new system and taken off of their respective agency's radio systems went well.

"A roll call situation ensued as each new officer came onto AIRS allowing us to carefully track who was on the system and

actively assisting in the search," said Delong, adding that the dispatcher with the Mohave County Sheriff's Office who handled all of the AIRS radio traffic during the incident did an incredible job.

As it turned out, three of the prisoners were apprehended in a mountainous area near the jail within just 30 minutes of their escapee.

The fourth prisoner, however, remains elusive to this day and Delong said it was during the end of the lengthy search for this individual that AIRS provided the most comfort to those assisting in the search.

"This had been a pretty intensive, lengthy search and by the time it started to get dark we were able to use AIRS to do a final roll call," Delong said. "This final roll call let us know within minutes that every officer from each agency was safe and accounted for. It was a very good feeling when we knew that all officers were safe and had gone back to their home agency's radio systems."

Delong said first responders in the Kingman area have had ways to achieve limited interoperability in the past, but AIRS is the first interoperable system in the region allowing first responders to be dispatched out of one communications center.

In what is an interesting side note to this story, the portion of the AIRS system used during this jailbreak had only become available for use in Kingman a day before the incident.

The overall system, which makes incredible use of some of Arizona's existing, or legacy communications equipment, is quickly becoming fully operational throughout the state.

To take full advantage of the interim interoperability improvements the AIRS radio network brings to Arizona's first responders, user agencies must first have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Public Safety Communications Commission and have programmed their mobile and portable radio equipment to take advantage of the AIRS radio network.

The MOU may be initiated online as well as a print-ready, hard copy. Both are accessed on the PSCC website at: <http://www.azdps.gov/pssc/survey.asp>.



MICHAEL HAKEY



CATHY CHANDLER



S. REGALADO-GEISER



JIM O'CONNOR



CLIFF SAVAGE



NOLA CARDANI



KIM COLLINS



JIM LOUGHLIN



DOUG MYERS



PATRICIA SIMPSON

Ten civilian employees at DPS promoted during ceremony in Phoenix

DPS Director Roger Vanderpool elevated ten civilian employees at DPS to higher job classifications during a ceremony on Jan. 22 at the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix. Following is information about all of the newly promoted civilian employees along with details about each employee's new job classification and assignment within the agency.

Michael Hakey, Badge No. 6459

Michael began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on September 30, 2004 as a Cadet Officer. He left the Department in January of 2005, but returned in April of 2005 as a Criminal Records Specialist for the Criminal History Records Unit. As a Criminal Records Specialist, he confirmed warrants with law enforcement agencies, ran criminal histories upon request from authorized agencies and entered dispositions. In September of 2006, he transferred to the Sex Offender Compliance Unit where he updated entries of sex offenders living in Arizona and requested court case information of sex offenders to validate their records. Michael is now being promoted to Administrative Assistant for Student Transportation in Phoenix.

Michael was born and raised in Fairfield, Vermont. He has been married to his wife Natalie Bahill for five years. Michael received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arizona in 2000 and his Associates of Arts degree in Multimedia from the University of Advancing Technology in 2002.

Cathy Chandler, Badge No. 5991

Cathy began her career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on November 17, 2001 as a Criminal Records Specialist for the Applicant Clearance Card Team. In September of 2004, she was promoted to Administrative Assistant for the Sex Offender Compliance Unit. Cathy is now being promoted to Intelligence Research Specialist for the Criminal Intelligence Research Unit, located at the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center.

Prior to DPS, Cathy retired from the Telephone Company (AT&T, US-WEST-QWEST) after 33 years of service.

Cathy was born and raised in Phoenix. She has two sons and two granddaughters.

Suzanne Regalado-Geiser, Badge No. 6291

Suzanne began her career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on September 27, 2003 as an Administrative Assistant for the Telecommunications Bureau. While working as an Administrative Assistant she served as a DPS Liaison for all cellular phones and pager transactions. In September of 2005, she was promoted to ACJIS Compliance Specialist for the Access Integrity Unit, where she served as the ACJIS Compliance Auditor and Project Coordinator. Suzanne is now being promoted to Criminal Intelligence Analyst for the Rocky Mountain Information Network.

In 2004, Suzanne was Telecommunications Employee of the Year and was the SECC Campaign Coordinator for the Criminal Justice Support Division in 2006.

Suzanne was born and raised in Phoenix. She has a daughter.

Jim O'Connor, Badge No. 6078

Jim began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on April 20, 2002 as a Roadside Motorist Assistant for the Freeway Service Patrol. As a Roadside Motorist Assistant, he assisted Officers in a non-law enforcement capacity, with duties including traffic control, directing traffic, assisting stranded motorists, and clearing accident scenes, among many others. Jim is now being promoted to Automotive/Motorcycle Technician assigned to Fleet in Phoenix.

As a Roadside Motorist Assistant, Jim's squad was awarded the Director's Unit Citation Squad of the Year in 2005.

Jim was born in Montreal and raised in Central Pennsylvania. He has been married to his wife Christina for 15 years. They have three children Chris, 37, Andy, 34 and Nick, 25. They also have a beautiful grandson, Jordan, age 7. Jim has an Associates of Applied Science degree in Technical Studies and a Bachelor of Science degree in IT/ Business Management. Jim is a 22 year veteran of the U.S. Army.

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Promotions ...

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Cliff Savage, Badge No. 3728

Cliff began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on November 17, 1985 as an Equipment Mechanic for the Fleet Unit. In February of 1996, he was promoted to Automotive Technician. In February of 2001, his position as Automotive Technician was reclassified to Automotive/Motorcycle Technician. Cliff is now being promoted to Fleet Service Supervisor.

Cliff was recognized as Employee of the Year in 1995. He received Directors Unit Citations in 1985, 1987, and 2000.

Cliff was born and raised in Poughkeepsie, New York. He has been married to his wife Christine for 18 years. They have two children Jayson and Janna. They also have five grandchildren.

Nola Cardani, Badge No. 4123

Nola began her career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on May 1, 1988 as a Police Communications Dispatcher for Flagstaff OpComm. Nola left the Department in October of 1994 to care for her mother. However, she remained a Police Communications Dispatcher intermittent employee until April of 1997 when she returned to full-time status. A short time later, she was promoted to Senior Police Communications Dispatcher. In March of 2001, she was promoted to Police Communications Supervisor. Nola is now being promoted to Police Communications Center Manager remaining at Flagstaff OpComm.

In 1999, Nola was Dispatcher of the Year from Flagstaff OpComm. In October of 1997, she was awarded for her invaluable assistance from P.A.N.T. In 1971, she received a Life Saving award from Governor Jack Williams for her part in saving her father's life.

On a personal note, she and her husband John raise show horses.

Nola was born and raised in Flagstaff. She has been married to her husband John for 25 years. They have a daughter, Rebecca, 21, and a son, Michael, 20. Nola received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Library Science.

Kim Collins, Badge No. 4667

Kim began her career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on January 9, 1993 as a Dispatcher Trainee for Tucson OpComm. She was promoted to Police Communications Dispatcher in January of 1994. In April of 1997, she was promoted to Senior Police Communications Dispatcher. In August of 2002, she was promoted to Police Communications Supervisor. Kim is now being promoted to Police Communications Center Manager remaining at Tucson OpComm.

In 1999, Kim was Southern Communications Dispatcher of the Year and Operational Communications Bureau Employee of the Year. In 2002, she was awarded a Director's Unit Citation. She is a member of the OpComm Standardization and Training Team and the Peer Support Team.

Kim was born in Washington D.C. and raised in Woodstock, Illinois. She has been married to her husband Mike for 19 years. They have two daughters, Katie, 11, and Sarah, 10. Kim received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Jim Loughlin, Badge No. 3714

Jim began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety in 1985 as a Communications Technician. In June of 1993, he was promoted to Senior Communications Technician. In April of 1997, Senior Communications Technician was reclassified to Telecommunications Technician. Jim is now being promoted to Telecommunications Coordinator for the Wireless Service Bureau.

Jim has received two Director's Unit Citation Awards and another award for his work during the Lewis Prison incident. He had a

special work assignment which was conducting sweeps for bug-ging devices.

Jim was born and raised in Leominster, Massachusetts. He has been married to his wife Ann for 36 years. He has an Associate of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jim retired from the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard after 20 years of service.

Doug Myers, Badge No. 6453

Doug began his career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on September 18, 2004 as a Police Communications Dispatcher. In May of 2005, he was promoted to Public Safety Call Taker for Phoenix OpComm. As a Public Safety Call Taker, his primary duties were to monitor several lines of communication in radio such as the main switchboard, 911 lines and officer lines for help on wants/warrants. He monitored the State Emergency Warning System and the Palo Verde Nuclear Warning System. Doug is now being promoted to Evidence Custodian for Property and Evidence.

Doug was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. He has been married to his wife Susan for 36 years. They have a son, Wade, 32 and a daughter, Amber, 30. They also have three beautiful grandchildren. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Canyon University. Doug has served four years in the U.S. Air Force and spent two tours in Vietnam.

Patricia Simpson, Badge No. 4259

Patricia began her career with the Arizona Department of Public Safety on March, 12, 1989 as Police Communications Dispatcher for Tucson OpComm. In January of 1995, she was promoted to Communications Supervisor for Phoenix OpComm, which was later reclassified to Police Communications Supervisor in April of 1997. Patricia is now being promoted to Police Communications Center Manager for Phoenix OpComm.

In 2001, Patricia was Supervisor of the Year. Patricia was born and raised in Tucson. She has been married to her husband, Warren, for 7 years.

Additional Promotions

Other recently promoted civilian employees at DPS who were unable to attend the formal promotional ceremony on Jan. 22 were Brett Rawleigh who was promoted to Personal Computer Coordinator and Melissa Haban-Jackson who was promoted to Associate Criminalist.

Stretching ...

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When you are stressed the body deprives oxygen from your extremities and delivers it to the major organs and our core. When your muscles are deprived of oxygen they become stiff or sore. By stretching you allow oxygen to be delivered back to those muscles. If you couple stretching with slowed, deep breathing you can speed the muscle recovery issues brought on by stress. Stretching also allows for a quick break and is a healthy way to take your mind off a stressful situation which can be helpful even if just for a moment.

Review:

As you can see stretching has a wide variety of benefits. Stretching ranges from basic light stretches to deep stretches and can be effective whether you are sitting still or preparing for strenuous activity. All types of stretches can be found in just about any fitness magazine or website. If you are unable to find stretches for a particular activity or just have general questions contact me and I can give you some ideas.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy
Officer Jason Yeager, Badge No. 6100
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There was marijuana scattered across the road turning the pavement from black to green DPS investigates strange crash that colored Valentines Day green

by DPS Sgt. Kevin McNichols

It was a scene like no other I have seen. I have seen collisions and rollovers where bundles of marijuana fall out of vehicles and even a few where they have broken open.

On Valentines Day of 2007, DPS Highway Patrol Officer Cosme Ibarra and I responded to a report of a collision at the Frontage Road near Agua Linda Farms just north of Tubac off I-19.

As I arrived on scene and parked behind marked patrol units, as well as a fire truck and an ambulance, I began walking toward the severely crushed Ford F150 Harley Davidson pickup truck. It had been crushed to the size of a Honda Element after rolling over.

As I came within 500 feet of the vehicle, it felt like I was walking on shag carpet. I looked down and all I could see was a sea of green. There was marijuana scattered across the road turning the pavement from black to green. In the surrounding mesquite trees, portions of bales of marijuana were hanging from trees. Inside the cattle guard on the frontage road was...yes, more marijuana. The hill-

It was determined a controlled burn would be the only way to destroy the marijuana that could not be picked up by hand.

side looked like it had just been hydro-seeded with marijuana (the process ADOT uses to plant grass in and around newly constructed off ramps). As I walked closer to the scene, I noticed marijuana embedded in the side of a wooden guardrail post.

As I watched emergency personnel treat the driver, I couldn't help but notice the buds of marijuana in the driver's hair. He was loaded on a stretcher and prepared to be airlifted. While paramedics were tending to his injuries, officers were busy pulling buds of marijuana off of the driver's clothing. Where he laid on the ground, there was a bundle of marijuana next to his head. The driver was air-lifted and it was at that time a supervisor with the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) stated he wanted to secure the scene and investigate this as a critical incident. He told me his guys had stopped the vehicle moments before the crash. However, after it came to a stop, it sped away from the USBP officers without its lights on and eventually crashed.

Hoping the driver of the crashed truck would fully recover from his injuries to face any resulting charges against him and have a chance at living a better, law abiding life, I couldn't help but also think the spilled marijuana was a "Happy Valentines Day" gift to DPS.

I thought about all of the marijuana that now would not end up on the streets while as calmly as possible asking the USBP Supervisor, "How can we help?" He responded, "Can you take the collision

investigation?" Yes, I replied. Officer Ibarra and I had already planned on formally investigating the collision.

In many collisions, it seems we often think of firemen as destroying evidence. In this case, there was so much marijuana, the only way you could tell the fire department was there was by looking at the marijuana in the tread of the tires of the fire truck and ambulance.

Many suggestions were being offered on how to clean up the mess: Have a Blackhawk helicopter fly over at a low altitude, ignite road flares, bring in street sweepers. All options were reviewed fully knowing that picking the marijuana up by hand would take an eternity.

Did someone say pick it up by hand? Perfect, that's how we will do it, I heard. I thought "Where are you going to get people to do that?" Secure the scene, let the critical incident team stay out all night and into the next morning, taking their photos and doing what they need to do and the next morning we will call out every new USBP trainee.

Little did I know, early the next morning 50 new USBP trainees would be on scene armed with rubber gloves, brooms, and trash bags. For the first 5 hours of daylight, the roadway and hillside was covered with USBP trainees picking up buds of marijuana.

The only thing I could think of that would be close in comparison to this operation would be picking up brass at the shooting range for 5 hours in an area that is over a quarter of a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide.

By 1300 hours, the asphalt had been swept clean and only a half dozen trainees remained at the scene. I walked the scene and noticed there was still a good couple hundred pounds of marijuana scattered across the desert but far more had been picked up than I could have imagined.

With the fire dept and ADOT on scene, it was determined a controlled burn would be the only way to destroy the marijuana that could not be picked up by hand. So it was, a controlled burn was being set up with plans to spray the area with a preemergence chemical after the burn to prevent the germination of any of the seeds.

As I left the scene, I told the few trainees that remained, "Thanks." I was thanking everyone I could. Thanks to USBP for taking disposition of the vehicle to remove the marijuana inside the vehicle.

Thanks for cleaning up the area. Thanks for doing a controlled burn. Thanks for traffic control.

As I was walking toward my patrol car, I heard a couple of the trainees from USBP saying, "We're just doing our job. We are keep-

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GIITEM's positive impact in rural area highlighted in recent article

The following editorial appeared in the Lake Powell Chronicle on Dec. 26, 2006. It was authored by the publication's editorial board. It is being reprinted in The Digest with the publication's permission. The article talks about the activities of the Gang Immigration and Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM), a multi-agency task force administered by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

It might have appeared to some spectators at the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) Basketball Tournament two weeks ago like Page High School was expecting big trouble, with one police officer in the regular blue uniform everyone around here recognizes, as well as several other officers dressed in black. Fortunately for Page, the Gang Immigration and Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission, also known as GIITEM, did not have to defuse some gang war or riot, and spectators could just limit their viewing of a battle to the basketball court.

With Page seeing an upsurge in growth, there is the possibility for some of the negative things that ride on the coattails of that growth to make their way into our fair city. In Page's case, one of those negative things is gangs. According to Ray Johnson of the Page Police Department, there are several identified gangs at the high school, and their presence in Page has been symbolized by an increase in vandalism and graffiti.

Page has the unfortunate stigma of being in an isolated area, and while that brings out hiking and recreational enthusiasts, it also brings out those who would just as soon



Officers assigned to GIITEM

not be in plain sight. Being in a smaller area can give gangs the opportunity to try and establish dominance. While the possibility of gang incidents getting completely out of control is remote, the status of "small town" does not prevent Page from being prey to gang violence.

That's why it is important for the community to be aware of the presence of criminal activity. As much as everyone would love to believe that Page is a place where everyone gets along and nobody ever tries to harm anybody, we know that is just a lot of optimistic hooley. Not all crimes are evi-

dent to the public at large, so that is why it is important for organizations like GIITEM to be out there, educating the people on the unknown. Small communities can be very trusting, and criminal elements like gangs can use that trusting attitude to cause harm.

While it might seem to some a little much for a gang task force to be on the prowl at a school basketball game, it is actually quite necessary. Basketball games in Page traditionally bring out huge crowds, so they provide an ideal opportunity for GIITEM to educate a huge segment of the public at once. It is also in large crowds where the potential for violence - gang or otherwise - increases.

It is to the Page Police Department's credit that it has pro-active officers like Johnson to consider bringing in GIITEM before there is an emergency. The task force officers weren't frisking anyone at the gate or telling loud fans to keep it down. In fact, they were interacting with the community, especially our impressionable young people. Come on, how many police officers do you know that will play hackysack in the course of their duties? The fact that GIITEM officers could kick back and relax, having only one arrest to deal with in the course of the entire tournament, shows that their presence was geared more toward community education and being neighborly than it was about busting the bad guys.

Up until recently, Page's police force has not been in the greatest shape. In fact, two years ago, it had dwindled down to a skeleton crew, with patrol duties going by the wayside and the department forced to react



An officer assigned to GIITEM observing tatoos

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Sergeant Mel Sanders retires after more than 31 years with DPS

by Kellen Chavez, Digest Staff Writer
kchavez@azdps.gov

"I went back to either my 10th or 15th high school reunion in Globe," recently retired DPS Sgt. Melvin Sanders said. "And when I got up and said I was a police officer there was a hush in the crowd."

He recalled his classmates being very surprised and asking each other, "Could Mel Sanders really be a policeman?"

Sanders retired from the Arizona Department of Public Safety on Dec. 22 after more than 31 years of dedicated service.

"I just kind of fell into this work, but it was a great, great career," Sanders said.

Sanders was born in Miami, Arizona and moved to Globe when he was 10 where he spent the remainder of his childhood and high school years.

He said, "I graduated from Globe High School in 1962 and went to college for a year at ASU and then went into the Navy for three and a half years."

After returning from the Navy, Sanders moved to Flagstaff to continue his college education but was soon lured into law enforcement work.

"I went to work for the Coconino County Sheriff's Department as a jailer and pretty soon was a dispatcher and then an outside deputy," Sanders said.

In all that time, Sanders had been going to school to earn a degree as an industrial arts teacher.

Sanders said, "By the time I graduated, though, I decided I wanted to go into law enforcement so I applied to DPS."

Sanders officially began his career with the Department on Aug. 10, 1975 after already having served over six years with the



Mel Sanders

Sheriff's Department.

Early on, however, Sanders knew that he was going to spend the large majority of his career on the road as a "uniformed" officer.

He said, "I had determined that I would probably be a uniformed officer my entire career because of my religion. I'm Latter Day Saints, Mormon, and it's hard to be a good CI person if you haven't at least been exposed to a lot of drinking and smoking."

The Department soon recognized how valuable Sanders' degree and experience and teaching would be, however.

He said, "In late 1977, then Maj. Snedigar, who was the commander of the northern division, was not happy with our in-service training.

"Then he remembered I had a degree in teaching, so he pulled me off the road for about 14 months and I did training all across northern Arizona."

Sanders describes this as probably the most rewarding non-enforcement position that he held in his time with the Department.

"It gave me an opportunity to use the degree that I had worked relatively hard to get and that was rewarding," Sanders said.

After his assignment training the northern part of the state, Sanders worked as a sergeant from 1978 until 2006 in District 1, and primarily for Area 5, St. George, Utah.

Sanders is most proud of an award his squad received from the Utah Highway Patrol for support that his squad has given them over the years.

"Of course it's one of those things that they probably give us twice as much support as we give them," Sanders said, humbly. "But it means a lot to me that we were able to develop and maintain that level of cooperation."

In retrospect, Sanders has no regrets when it comes to his career.

He said, "It was a great career, especially when you consider that I didn't grow up wanting to be a policeman."

Sanders and his wife, Meredith, have three children and seven grandchildren.

As for retired life, Sanders makes no qualms about the free time and enjoyment it will provide him with. He is still a handyman with interests in restoring classic cars.

He said, "I can weld, I can do mechanic work and right now I'm working on restoring my wife's 1970 Volkswagen, which was a gift from her father, and then a 1966 Chevrolet pickup that has been in my family for about 40 years.

"And I do woodwork and have a lot of things to do. I am really looking forward to this new chapter in my life."

Officer Randan Holmes retires from agency after 35 years of service

Officer R. Leo Holmes retired from the Department on July 31 after completing 35 years of service with the agency. He began his career with DPS on August 1, 1971.

After completing training at the DPS Training Academy he was promoted to Officer and assigned to the Highway Patrol, in District Three, Holbrook.

During 1971, he was reassigned to the City of Many Farms where he served until being transferred to Window Rock in 1972. In 1975, while assigned to the Highway Patrol Division, he volunteered his services as Cadet Counselor for Class #26.

Among his many personal and professional accomplishments, he was the recipient of three Director's Unit Citations and has received numerous complimentary letters of appreciation from citizens, leaders of other

law enforcement and governmental agencies, and the Governor's Office.

In 1972, Holmes helped a team comprised of DPS officers capture the championship of the Window Rock Police Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Team members included Holmes, John Tibbets, Martin Maloney, Ben Smith, Thad Hale, Charlie Cleveland and John Martin.

More retirement stories to appear in next Digest

Among those who have recently retired from DPS with more than 30 years of service and have yet to be featured in *The Digest* are: Cmdr. Beau Johnson, Det. Ruben Valente, Officer Ronald Lewis, Fingerprint Tech Joyce Wharton, and Human Resources Analyst Beverly Fuller.



Randan Holmes

Charlie Cleveland retires from DPS after 32 years of service

Charles "Charlie" Cleveland retired from the Department on Aug. 19 after more than 32 years of service.

Cleveland began his career with DPS on Jan. 8, 1968 as a probationary officer.

After completing the training academy, he was promoted to officer and assigned to Highway Patrol in District Three.

After 20 years as a sworn officer, Cleveland retired from the Department on Apr. 30, 1988. After retiring, Cleveland spent more than five years at an automotive parts store in Holbrook.

Cleveland's retirement was short-lived, however, as he returned to the department on Feb. 12, 1994.

Upon his return, Cleveland was assigned as District Three storekeeper and in 1998 he was reclassified to Operations Assistant.

In this position, Cleveland's duties included District Vehicle Administrator, District Evidence Custodian and District Capital Inventory Expert.

In his time with the Department, Cleveland received a Director's Unit Citation and many letters of appreciation from citizens and other law enforcement agencies.

He has lived in Holbrook, Arizona for many years and is very respected there.

In 1972, Cleveland helped a team comprised of DPS officers capture the championship of the Window Rock Police Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Team members included Cleveland, John Tibbets, Martin Maloney, Ben Smith, Thad Hale, Leo Holmes and John Martin.

Cleveland also brought home several bowling titles while at DPS.



Charlie Cleveland

Paul Palmer retires from Department after 40 years of service

Paul Palmer Jr. retired Nov. 30 after more than 40 of service to the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Palmer began his career with the Department on March 29, 1966 as a police clerk.

He was soon assigned to Operational Communications where he provided communications and dispatching services to highway patrol officers. He also worked in a variety of different administrative positions within the agency.

He eventually transferred to Advanced Training as a coordinator. While there, Palmer became interested in a new and innovative component of the Department - its Video Unit.

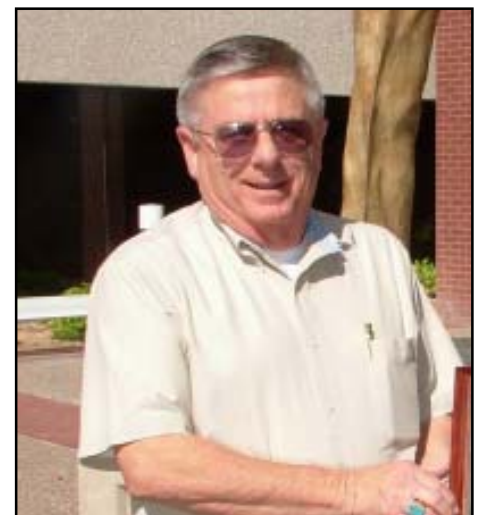
He joined the upstart Video Unit and since that time he has been involved in producing professional videos that touched on

everything from officer safety issues, department news, and important public safety messages.

The relationship with the military that Palmer helped establish with his likeable and contagious personality were invaluable to the success that DPS Video has had over the years in the winning of numerous awards for different public service announcements.

Palmer will long be remembered for his ability to take the serious nature of police work and touch it with his sense of humor through the monthly staple, "Slightly Out of Focus."

For years Palmer satirized daily tasks, new trends in police work and special programs bringing a smile to all of those at the Department who needed a break from the daily routine.



Paul Palmer

Officer Charley Ruiz retires from agency after 33 years of service

Charley Ruiz retired from the Arizona Department of Public Safety on Jan. 30 after completing nearly 34 years as an officer.

Ruiz began his career in law enforcement with DPS on Mar. 1, 1973 as a highway patrolman. Midway through that same year, he was assigned to Aguila in District 10 for a short time and was then reassigned to District 6.

In 1975, Ruiz was selected for a position in the Criminal Investigations Bureau, Narcotics Division. During this assignment, he played a key role in numerous high-profile investigations that put countless dangerous criminals behind bars and resulted in the seizure of large quantities of illegal drugs.

Ruiz remained in this assignment until 1987 when he transferred to Liquor Enforcement. Three years later, he transferred to the

Gang Unit in Southern Intelligence.

In 1994, the Gang Unit transformed into the multi-agency task force known today as the Gang Immigration and Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission, or simply GIITEM. Ruiz became part of the GIITEM training staff in 2002.

He made an indelible impact on the organization that is one of only a few true multi-agency statewide gang task force programs in the country.

GIITEM's anti-gang efforts are directed into three areas: enforcement, intelligence gathering and training. GIITEM's success can be contributed to its ability to confront gang problems statewide without regard to normal jurisdictional issues and the hard work of its innovative, dedicated employees, one of which was Ruiz.



Charley Ruiz

Michael Eyring retires from Department after 30 years of service

DPS Criminalist Michael Eyring retired Jan. 29 after completing 30 years of service to the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Eyring began his career with the Department on Jan. 2, 1977, as a criminalist assigned to the crime laboratory. From that day forth, Eyring worked at refining his skills in scientific examinations and focusing his expertise in the examination of trace evidence.

Eyring lent his expertise in the analysis of such things as explosives, paint, hairs, fibers, glass and soil to help in the criminal investigations of cases such as the Perryville prison guard homicide and the Hidden Trap bombing in Coconino County. He even worked outside the state on cases including the Green River serial murders.

Apart from his duties in the lab, Eyring also served as the Chairman of the Ameri-

can Academy of Forensic Science's "Professional Oversight Task Force" and as a Charter Member of the Scientific Working Group on Materials Analysis Testing.

Eyring has also been recognized as a fellow to many distinguished scientific boards. He also served as an instructor of analytical techniques at the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, VA. Eyring has also had research published in the pages of the Forensic Science Handbook.

In 1993, Eyring received the FBI Crime Laboratory Award of Appreciation and the American Academy of Forensic Science Meritorious Service Award. Two years later, the Arizona Administrators Association named him Professional of the Year, and in 2004 he was awarded Scientist of the Year by DPS.



Michael Eyring

Donald Olfers retires from Department after 37 years of service

Donald Olfers retired on Dec. 29 after more than 37 years of service with the Department.

Olfers began his career as a cadet officer in the very first DPS academy class on Aug. 7, 1969 and was assigned to Globe after his graduation.

In 1978, Olfers transferred to the Northern Air Rescue Unit as a paramedic. He remained in this position for the rest of his career.

He was a member of the original staff of pilots and paramedics that developed and established the Northern Air Rescue Unit in Flagstaff.

In 1983, Olfers received a Meritorious Service Award for his work and in 1993, Northern Air Rescue received a Director's Unit Citation for professionalism.

In his service as a paramedic, Olfers was constantly involved in missions that saved numerous lives including incidents at Dangling Rope Canyon on Lake Powell and in Oak Creek Canyon.

During an incident in 1997, Olfers and Pilot Patrick Stefanski responded to a request to assist with a subject stranded on a two- to three- foot ledge in Oak Creek Canyon.

Because of the canyon's narrowness, no landing could be made so the hiker was carefully lifted by Olfers via cinch collar and then lowered to rescuers waiting at the canyon's floor.

These brave actions were basically routine for Olfers who participated in countless similar rescues during his career.



Donald Olfers

Officer Tom Davis retires from Department after 35 years of service

Officer Tom Davis retired from DPS on Dec. 31 after more than 35 years of service to the Department.

Davis began his career on June 1, 1971 as a summer employee assigned to Criminal History Records. Soon thereafter, he assumed the "cadet trainee" position in Training for a short time before entering the academy on Feb. 1, 1972. Following graduation, Davis was assigned to District 4, Dateland.

In 1973, Davis transferred to Criminal Investigations Division in Tucson. During this time, Davis became one of the original members of DPS' Crisis Negotiations Team.

Davis transferred from Tucson Intelligence to Phoenix Intelligence in 1977 where he focused on the development of the Colorado River region area.

Davis also had a three-year assignment

with the Arizona Department of Corrections.

For 25 years of his career, Davis was assigned to the Intelligence Bureau. In 1996, he was assigned to the first Joint Terrorism Task Force hosted by the FBI.

Two years later, Davis transferred to the Department's Special Operations Unit where he became the Crisis Negotiations Team Leader.

Davis has been the recipient of two Distinguished and Meritorious Service awards from both DPS and AZDOC. Davis has also received six Director's Unit Citations.

In 2004, Davis transferred to an assignment as Intelligence Special Events Detective where he was assigned to the WMD HazMat Section within the Intelligence/ACTIC Bureau. Davis finished out his career in this position.



Tom Davis

Ellery Kramar retires from Department after 32 years of service

Officer/Pilot Ellery Kramar retired from DPS on December 29 after serving more than 32 years with the agency.

His support and dedication to the Department began even prior to his official employment. In 1969, he was contracted by the Department to participate in the "AMES" project as a Pilot.

The "AMES" project launched the Department into the aviation and medical record books as the first non-military agency to provide a dedicated helicopter medical evacuation service.

On July 16, 1972, he joined the Department and attended the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy as a member of Class #27.

He was one of the first pilots hired by the Department and was truly a pioneer to DPS Aviation. His dedication to the Department

has elevated the Aviation Bureau to that of national recognition. He helped establish a section that other state agencies have attempted to replicate.

The long list of his accomplishments with the Department includes more than 9,000 accident free flight hours and over 6,000 Air Rescue missions.

Kramar has rescued countless motorists, hikers, hunters, rafters, and others from life-threatening situations. He has saved lives and received countless letters of appreciation from the public and other agencies for his service.

During his career, Kramar was awarded the Department's Distinguished Service Award, the Director's Citation for Professional Excellence Award and the Department's Employee of the Year.



Ellery Kramar

Joseph Lopez retires from Department after 30 years of service

Officer Joseph Lopez retired from DPS on Jan. 26 after 30 years of service.

Lopez began his career with the Department on October 3, 1976, as a Cadet Officer. Upon graduation, he received his first assignment to Highway Patrol in Nogales.

In 1979, he transferred to Tucson. By late 1980, he promoted to Agent and transferred to the Prescription Fraud Unit. He transferred to the Air Smuggling Task Force at U.S. Customs in 1982 where he received a Director's Unit Citation.

Following this, he transferred to the D.E.A. Task Force where he was recognized in 1987 and 1989 with Certificates of Achievement by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

Lopez briefly returned to Narcotics before entering Organized Crime/Financial Investigations in 1990.

During his assignment to the Financial Investigations Unit, he received the Meritorious Service Award for a multi-million dollar land fraud investigation with 32 victims in seven states.

He was also recognized with his squad in 1999 with the Criminal Investigations Squad of the Year award, and again in 2000 with a Director's Unit Citation.

He was also a member of the Southern Arizona Special Investigations Unit from 1989 until 2000.

By 2000, Lopez returned to Narcotics where he has worked a variety of assignments, including an assignment to the Santa Cruz County Metro Task Force. In 2006, Lopez and his squad were recognized with a Director's Unit Citation for their work on Damming Warrant 15.



Joseph Lopez

Officer Larry Jenkins retires from agency after 35 years of service

Larry Jenkins retired Dec. 31 after more than 35 years of service to the Department.

Jenkins began his career with DPS on Aug. 1, 1971 as a cadet officer. After graduating from the academy, he transferred to District 8, Highway Patrol in Tucson.

After he was selected for the Intelligence Unit, Jenkins attended the California Department of Justice Criminal Intelligence Data Collection Training. His knack for intelligence gathering led to his placement in Tucson's Narcotics Conspiracy Unit.

In 1989, Jenkins was assigned to the Special Operations Unit where he served as a crisis negotiator for 12 years. As a result, in 1990, Jenkins was a founding member of the Arizona Chapter of the Board of Directors of the Southern Region Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Unit, a multi-agency, national or-

ganization, which assists with the debriefing and well-being of first responders.

Jenkins was transferred to General Investigations, in 1990, where he worked with the Major Violators Unit. He returned to the Intelligence Section in 1994.

From 1997-1998, Jenkins was assigned as an investigator with Tucson FBI's Corruption Squad. Jenkins also served on the Board of Directors of the Western Regional Organized Crime Investigators Association.

In addition to numerous letters of commendation over the years, Jenkins was given a Director's Unit Citation in 1995 while assigned with the Special Operations Unit.

In 2001, Jenkins was recognized as the Intelligence Bureau Employee of the Year for his work in developing leads into a major narcotics conspiracy case.



Larry Jenkins

DPS Sergeant Rob Cahoon conquers tallest mountain in Africa

by Kellen Chavez, Digest Staff Writer
kchavez@azdps.gov

"People have asked me why I wanted to do this," DPS Sgt. Rob Cahoon said, reflecting on his six-day ascent to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

"The only answer I could give them was that it was just something that was on my list of things I wanted to do before I die."

Cahoon, a 23-year DPS veteran currently assigned to GITEM, began his journey to conquer Africa's tallest mountain on Sept. 1 of 2006. He made the trip with a good friend of his from Utah.

The actual hiking did not begin until Sept. 3, a day after Cahoon and his buddy had arrived at the altitude to become acclimated to it.

Cahoon said, "I wanted to summit on a full moon because you could see more, and September is one of the best of the dry months. We had perfect weather the whole time."

The climbing of Kilimanjaro proved to be much different than the years of training and hiking Cahoon put in on the trails in Arizona.

Kilimanjaro stands 19,340 feet tall at its summit, nearly three times the altitude of Flagstaff and a figure that dwarfs the heights of Camelback Mountain or the descent into the Grand Canyon.

Cahoon said the trails of Kilimanjaro were nearly straight up.

Concerning the staggering altitude, however, he added, "Neither one of us had a problem with the endurance part



DPS Sgt. Rob Cahoon

that comes with the altitude. Everyday the hiking went by so slowly. It's not like the way you can hike the Grand Canyon where you're just kinda jettin' along."

Cahoon said that hardly meant the climb was easy.

Reflecting on the night of the summit ascent he said, "They would let us rest for about 30 seconds at a time and I would just hunch over on my hiking poles because I didn't want to walk a few feet off trail to sit on a rock."

The hike up Kilimanjaro allows climbers to experience many different climate zones from forests to desert sand dunes to ice caps at the summit.

Cahoon explained that each hiker had a guide along with two "porters" who were responsible for setting up and tearing down camp each day.

He said, about the porters, "It was

just amazing to see how much weight these guys actually carry on their backs and head. They're just these lean, scrawny guys but they just climb all the time."

Slowly but surely, Cahoon, his friend, guides and porters made their way towards the summit.

He said he passed many people who turned back because they could not make it to the top. Cahoon's mentality was set in stone however.

"My only focus was, 'SUMMIT'," he said.

At the start, Cahoon had wanted to summit on a full moon just before sunrise.

Having finally reached the top of Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet, Cahoon realized that he and his friend had hiked just a tad too fast and had reached the top an hour before sunrise.

In the blistering cold, Cahoon was content with his accomplishment and was not about to wait another hour to see the sunrise.

He said, "My friend had a thermometer on his pole that read the temperature and when we got to the top, he read that it was 18 below and we figured the wind was also blowing around 25 mph. We looked around and the sun hadn't even begun to rise because we summited at about 5:30 a.m. So there was no way that we were going to stand around for an hour."

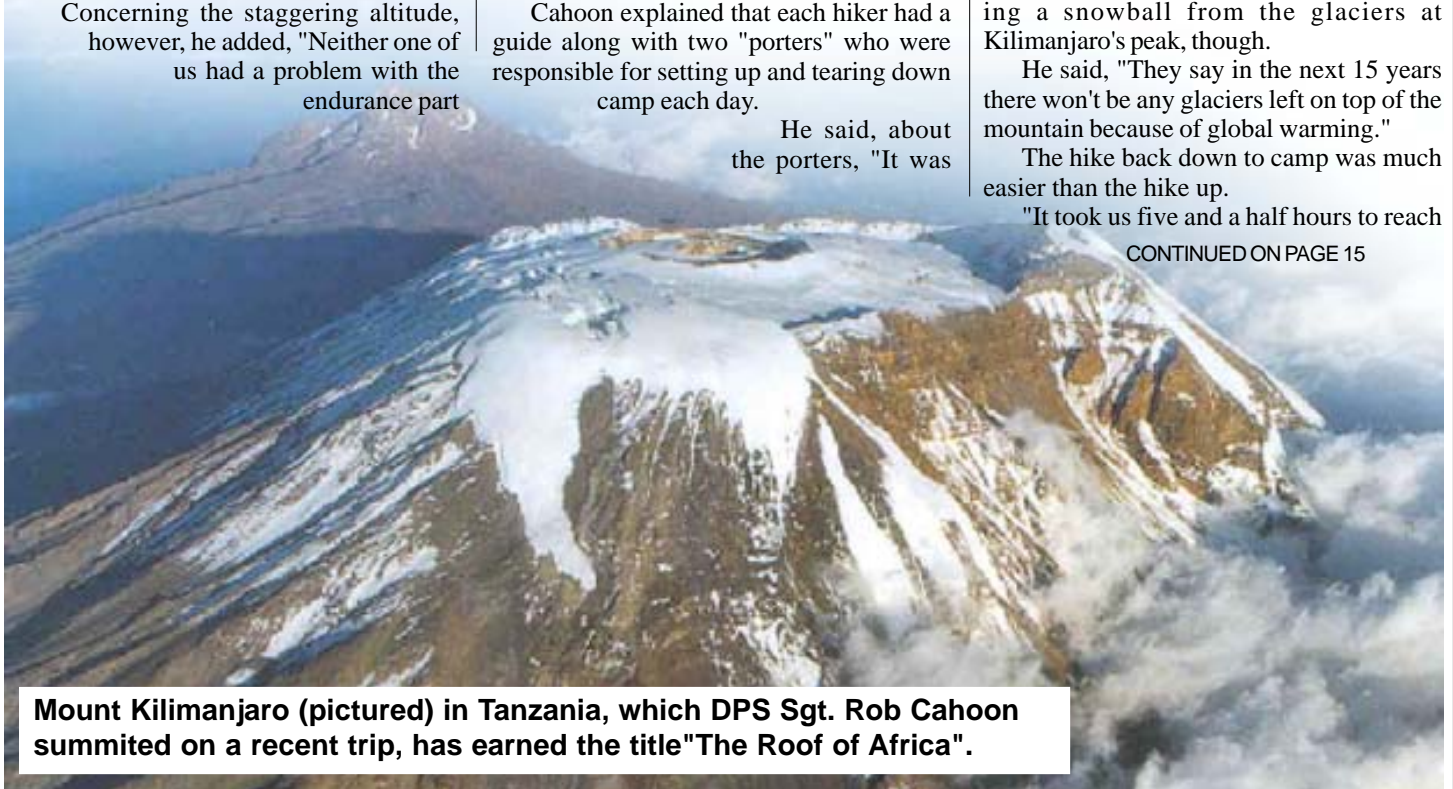
Cahoon could not help himself from making a snowball from the glaciers at Kilimanjaro's peak, though.

He said, "They say in the next 15 years there won't be any glaciers left on top of the mountain because of global warming."

The hike back down to camp was much easier than the hike up.

"It took us five and a half hours to reach

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Mount Kilimanjaro (pictured) in Tanzania, which DPS Sgt. Rob Cahoon summited on a recent trip, has earned the title "The Roof of Africa".

Mountain ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

the top and it took two hours to get down," Cahoon said.

He added that the descent was like hiking down the sand dunes, it allowed for "moon-jump"-type bounds, but also quite a bit of wear on the knees.

Cahoon is not a stranger to knee injuries. His trip was delayed more than a year after he blew out his knee skiing in Utah.

Still, the preparation he put in by hiking the Grand Canyon or Camelback Mountain offered little preparation for the descent from over 19,000 feet.

He said, "I was never in any pain, never exhausted going up. But it just pounded the crap out of my knees and they hurt coming down."

After reaching camp, Cahoon and his buddy celebrated their accomplishment by sipping on an ice-cold Coke. Neither Cahoon nor his friend drinks alcohol, which was the other celebration beverage to choose from.

Cahoon's journey did not end here, however. He spent another week in the surrounding area on a safari in hopes of seeing animals that only exist in captivity throughout most the world.

The seven days were split between three of Africa's national wildlife parks in the Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara National Park and the Serengeti.

Cahoon said, "The crater was the most fun out of all the sights, all the others were fun too, but that's where we saw all the animals within the first couple days."

Cahoon said that there are five animals, commonly referred to as "the big five," that tourists are most anxious to see on a safari.

These animals are lions, elephants, rhinos, water buffaloes and leopards, the last of which is considered the rarest.

Cahoon, however, was lucky enough to see a leopard on his first day on the safari.

Traveling in a Toyota Land Cruiser and led by a local guide named Godbehere, Cahoon and his friend saw a leopard walking up the path they were traveling on.

Among other moments, a particularly intriguing chain of events started on a wooden bridge that resembled something from an Indiana Jones movie.

Cahoon said, "We were crossing this swinging bridge that was about 100 feet long and we looked down and we could see a couple crocodiles in the water. And the water was just slimy green. If you touch that water you just know you're going to get malaria or some type of disease. And of course we were just walking across boards

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On the way up

DPS Sgt. Rob Cahoon stopped for a photo opportunity and short break about halfway between Barranco Camp at 12,959 feet and Barafu Camp at 14,927 feet. Cahoon and his fellow hikers arrived at Barafu Camp in the late afternoon and started their summit climb at the stroke of midnight.



At the summit

Exhausted, cold and feeling the effects of rarified air at an elevation of 19,340 feet, Cahoon (second from right) and his fellow hikers stopped for a brief photo at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. Cahoon's group summited just prior to sunrise and the temperature was about 18 degrees below zero and the wind was blowing roughly 25 mph. Although it would have been amazing to take in views from the summit during daylight, Cahoon said he and his group were not about to wait another hour for the sun to rise.

Make-A-Wish Foundation to host fundraisers

Employees from DPS encouraged to participate

DPS was involved in the start of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Arizona in 1980 in fulfilling the wish of the "Bubble Gum Trooper", Chris Greicius.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation says they deeply appreciate the continued support of their organization by employees from DPS.

They recently received support and financial contributions from the Arizona Highway Patrol Association as well.

To continue supporting the organization, The Make-A-Wish foundation encourages DPS staff and their friends and families to participate in the third annual Walks for Wishes on March 3, April 21, or May 5.

These events will help the organization raise funds to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

All walks start at 9:30 a.m., and are as follows:

SCOTTSDALE - March 3 - Eldorado Park

FLAGSTAFF - April 21 - Buffalo Park

TUCSON - May 5 - University of Arizona

For more information, and to register, go to: www.walkforwishesaz.kintera.org

It will also be possible to register at each site beginning at 8:30 on the day of the walk. Each walk includes a 1-mile family walk and a 5k walk. There will also be a 5k run in Scottsdale and Flagstaff.

Drug busts ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

an alert to a construction style fuel tank in the bed of the truck. A search revealed approximately 237 pounds of cocaine located in a false compartment in the tank. Also seized were a 2006 Chevrolet Duramax truck and \$4,000 in U.S. currency.

About half ton of pot seized

On January 19, Southern Patrol K-9 Officer Keith Duckett stopped a tractor trailer truck on I-19 northbound for equipment violations. During the stop, Officer Duckett observed indicators of criminal activity. After the stop a positive alert from Officer Duckett's canine "Rico" and consent to search revealed approximately 1,000 pounds of marijuana located on pallets in the front of the trailer. Two suspects were arrested. One suspect, the company owner, was on probation for a prior seizure and is a suspect in a homicide case in Nogales, Sonora Mexico. A 1998 Freightliner tractor was seized.

Sgt. Blue's squad gets hot

The Highway Patrol Squad in District 6 supervised by DPS Sgt. David Blue is in the middle of a hot streak. They seized over 2,000 pounds of marijuana during a recent 45 day period.

Their hot streak peaked on an evening in February when the squad of six officers and one sergeant recovered 358 pounds of marijuana and a stolen vehicle following three separate traffic stops over an eight hour period. The first stop of that evening was made by DPS Officer Heriberto Manjarres. It resulted in 125 pounds of marijuana seized. Just an hour later a traffic stop was conducted by squad member N. Anderson that resulted in a 233 pound marijuana seizure. As officers were transporting this vehicle and the illegal drugs, they observed a suspicious vehicle traveling at a very high rate of speed and notified another available squad member. When this squad member, Officer Sean Burgess, located the vehicle, it had been abandoned. He quickly found the driver in a nearby area and the driver admitted to Burgess that he had stolen the vehicle in Tucson. It was valued at roughly \$40,000 and was quickly put on its way back to its rightful owner who, at the time the vehicle was recovered by Burgess, wasn't even aware that it had been stolen.

"The guys on my squad did an outstanding job that night," said DPS Sgt. David Blue.

After Sgt. Blue decided to e-mail some of his squad's aforementioned accomplishments to the Digest for possible publication, one of his squad members - Burgess - stopped another vehicle and seized an additional 167 pounds of marijuana.



ALETA Class #76 Reunion

Attending a recent reunion of those who graduated from Cadet Class #76 at Tucson's Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA) as DPS officers in December of 1981 were (from left) Chris Muller, Claire Swigard, Jose Fimbres, John Shull, Jim Milner, Miriam Santa Maria, Bob Butler, Coe Mitchell, and Andy Williams. All of the DPS officers from that class included: Bob Butler #2838, Juan Cruz #3111, Ramon Figueroa #3081, Jose Fimbres #3082, Wayne Kuwanhyoima #3066, Jim Milner #3098, Coe Mitchell #3083, John Shull #3099, Claire Swigard #3079, Miriam Santa Maria #2993, and Andy Williams #2842. DPS staff for Class #76 included: Sgt. Gary Richardson #433 and Officers Veronica Minch #2075 and Chris Mueller #2077. Six of those class members are still employed by DPS. The recent reunion of Cadet Class #76 graduates consisted of lunch, laughs, reminiscing and paying homage to classmate Juan Cruz who was killed in the line of duty in 1998.

Unique, fun volunteer opportunity exists

DPS Sgt. Sheila Markwell is working with a unique non-profit agency that is currently looking for volunteers. The agency is called Angel Acres and they are hoping to find volunteers who are willing to donate time each Saturday morning through May 12th, 2007. Angel Acres is a non-profit agency in Queen Creek that provides therapeutic horse back exercise to children. Often the



children are from disadvantaged homes, or have disabilities. If you would like information on their program, visit their website at www.angelacres.org. If you wish to volunteer, or know of children who would benefit by participating in this fun program, please call 480-888-0199 or send an e-mail to: Angelacresinc@aol.com. You can also contact DPS Sgt. Sheila Markwell at (602) 223-2622.

Marijuana ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ing drugs off the street. We're just doing a drug sweep."

I caught myself day dreaming of bundles of marijuana flying 100 mph in the air and exploding when they hit the trees, the ground, and the guard rail. I dreamed of the poor trainee using a Shop Vac to clean the cattle guard out. Was he thinking "this job really stinks?"

As I thought about this chaos causing me to miss dinner with my family, I was thankful that the cleanup of the marijuana did not strain DPS' limited resources and was so graciously handled with the help and cooperation of various entities.

Mountain ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

on this bridge."

Once they safely reached the other side, Cahoon, his friend and guide made their way past a pond and noticed peculiar paths leading into the water.

The paths were three- to four-foot gorges and the guide informed them that these were in fact Hippopotamus trails.

"So we stood in this hippo trail, and each had our pictures taken. But we started to wonder where the hippos were, and our guide, straight faced as ever said, 'Yeah we better get back to the car because I don't have my gun,'" Cahoon said with a laugh.

Cahoon survived it all, though. The 19,000-foot climb, near run-ins with hippos, crocodiles, lions, elephants, giraffes, water buffalo and all sorts of other African wildlife.

He said, "I took over 900 pictures total. It was an awesome experience."

Arizona is now the fastest growing state

Arizona replaced longtime leader Nevada as the fastest-growing state in the union during the 12 months ended July 1, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The population of the Grand Canyon State grew 3.6 percent during that period. Nevada grew by 3.5 percent.

Rounding out the top five growers were Idaho (2.6 percent), Georgia and Texas (both 2.5 percent).

In absolute numbers, Texas was the biggest gainer. Its population increased by 579,275 during the period. Second was Florida, which gained 321,697 residents.

North Carolina, which gained 184,086 people, a 2.1 percent increase, passed New Jersey, which gained just 21,410 residents, to break into the 10 most populous states list.

That most populous list is topped by California with 36.5 million residents. About one of every eight Americans lives in the Golden State.

Regionally, the West grew faster than any other area, 1.5 percent. The South was next at 1.4 percent, with the Midwest third (0.4 percent) and the Northeast trailing (0.1 percent).

DPS partners with Safety Perspectives Inc.

DPS and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) have partnered with Safety Perspectives Inc. for Operation Toe Tag. Operation Toe Tag is directed at educating drivers about distracted driving.

It is estimated that over 50 percent of all collisions occur because of distracted drivers, who contributed to over 1,100 lives lost and injured over 70,000 people in Arizona alone last year and caused millions of dollars in property damage. Operation Toe Tag is a public awareness campaign initiated by Safety Perspectives Inc. and supported by DPS and GOHS.

The Arizona Chapter of the National Safety Council and Arizona Defensive Driving Schools are the two largest defensive driving educational programs in Arizona, collectively processing over 150,000 ticketed offenders each year.

All of their instructors have been equipped with "Toe Tag" approved lesson plans since early October of 2006.

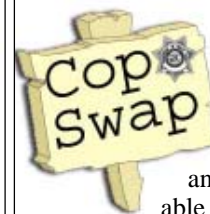
DPS and GOHS hosted a press conference at DPS' headquarters building in Phoe-

nix on Friday, February 16, at 10:00 am. Director Roger Vanderpool (DPS), Director Richard Fimbres (GOHS), and Director of Operations for Safety Perspectives, Robert Brown, spoke at the press conference, providing information about Operation Toe Tag and the roll the business community must to play in reducing the grave dangers of distracted driving.

Possible job for retired DPS officer

A major distributor of police emergency vehicle equipment is interviewing for a commissioned outside sales representative. The successful applicant will be an outgoing, enthusiastic self starter and able to relate to law enforcement personnel in the state of Arizona. Vehicle and fleet experience helpful. Ideal position for retired law enforcement. Send in resume for immediate consideration.

Email resume to melanied@firstininc.com or fax to: 623-780-9599



Diamondback tickets

Field level, between third base and the leftfield foul pole. Face value is \$16.50

and the tickets are available in sets of two for \$33.

For more information contact Art Coughanour at (623) 915-1062.

1999 Honda Civic SI

Dark Blue

4-Cyl. 1.6 DOHC VTEC engine

"Show Room" condition

76K mileage, manual transmission

\$8500 OBO

Contact DPS Sergeant Philip Johnson
623-640-2205



Letters

Dear Director Vanderpool,

I can't tell you how much we appreciate the participation of DPS Sgt. Gene Moran and DPS Officer Gordon Beyer in the Oct. 29 dedication of the Brundrett Group Camp Sites at Timber Camp Recreation Area along U.S. 60 near Globe. The participation of these officers in this event made it a truly honorable occasion.

The late DPS Highway Patrol Officer Corwin Brundrett, to whom this new camp site was dedicated, is a legend in our time. We were proud to have the opportunity to honor an Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer for the dedication and service he provided to the people of Arizona.

Thank you again from all of us, for representing the fine officers and employees of the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Your partnership is so important to our continued service to the public.

Connie Lane

U.S. Forest Service

Globe Ranger District

Dear Deputy Director Felix,

In February of 2006 you donated a certificate for a ride-along and crime lab tour to a local school's fund raising auction. I purchased this item and was excited and looking forward to the experience. On April 21, I took the crime lab tour with Sgt. Sanders and one of the lab directors. It was both informative and enjoyable.

My ride-along was scheduled for June 3. In early May my husband began to experience some fatigue and leg pain. On May 16, he was diagnosed with kidney cancer that had spread to his lungs, liver and bones.

I cancelled my ride-along to spend every minute caring for and loving Bob. He died on Father's Day - two weeks after his 65th birthday. We were married 43 wonderful years. The past months have been difficult.

A few weeks ago I began to think again about doing the ride-along. I went last Friday and couldn't have imagined how much I would learn and the perceptions I would gain.

DPS Officer Cody Mullenau of Metro East was my "instructor." He was delightful! He really seemed to want my experience

to mean something. He was professional and courteous to everyone he came in contact with; never rude or demeaning. The other officers I observed were also professional. You should be very proud of your officers, especially Officer Mullenau.

Thank you for your donation that provided me such a terrific experience.

Carole Lowery

Mesa, AZ

Dear Director Vanderpool:

On October 6th and 7th, the Verde Valley Fairgrounds hosted a motorcycle rally called Smoke Out West. This was a first time event for our small city and the promoters were estimating anywhere between 5,000 to 10,000 participants from across the nation. We also anticipated the presence of outlaw motorcycle gangs that could overwhelm our resources if there was a problem. Thankfully, we had the assistance of many agencies in Yavapai County and from the state that proved invaluable in providing a strong law enforcement presence that helped in creating a very calm event.

Please accept our thanks for the use of your personnel and please extend to each of them our appreciation for their assistance. I can assure you that they presented a very professional image and represented your agency well throughout the event. The event also provided a great opportunity to coordinate law enforcement resources locally and from the state and it became clear that with the assistance we received the resources are available to overcome any challenge.

Doug Bartosh

Chief of Police

Cottonwood Police Department

Dear Director Vanderpool:

I am writing this letter to extend our gratitude for the outstanding efforts of Ruben Chavez and Paul Palmer, Video Production Unit, related to a DVD produced for our agency on identity theft and the schemes used by the perpetrator. Chavez and Palmer conducted numerous interviews and filmed these interviews and evidence for the DVD. They were very professional and detailed in their work resulting in an excellent product on identity theft.

We appreciated the assistance of the Department of Public Safety with this project. The DVD will be distributed to the financial aid community and other law enforcement agencies in an effort to raise awareness about identity theft in the Department of Education's financial student assistance programs. The cooperation and time spent on this project resulted in a professional DVD that has been distributed by our agency.

The Department of Education, Office of Inspector General appreciates your agency's willingness to complete this project. The Department of Public Safety can be proud of the DVD produced by Chavez and Palmer.

Michael Deshields

Deputy Inspector General for Investigations

Dear Director Vanderpool,

Now that all of the excitement of the Cardinal's season, the Fiesta Bowl and BCS Bowl game is behind us and we have had a few days to recover, I would like to thank you and your agency for all of the support that you have provided us! Our partnership was crucial to the success of these events.

In addition to the security and EOD support that your department provided throughout the entire Cardinal's season, we were also able to develop the JOC (Joint Operation Center) and to organize valley-wide cooperation and shared resources. The JOC allowed federal, state and local agencies to successfully coordinate resources. Your commitment to that process is part of what made the JOC concept a success and has prepared us to not only be ready for the 2008 Super Bowl, but also to be prepared for any other regional or valley-wide emergency.

Thank you once again, and I certainly am looking forward to working with you throughout future Cardinal's seasons, during future events and with all other issues of mutual interest!

Steve Conrad

Chief of Police

Glendale Police Department

GIITEM ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

rather than prevent. Now, with the help of the Page City Council in its decision to bring the officers' wages up to a level consistent with the level of risk they incur putting on their uniform, the police department can catch more of the criminals and still have time to put in preventative measures. Asking GIITEM to come to Page just provides an added bit of comfort while providing something new and interesting for the citizens of Page.

Johnson deserves kudos for bringing GIITEM here and giving them a chance to inform the community at large. There is never a bad time to learn something new, and increased community awareness can only lead to a decrease in criminals getting away with bad behavior. While it might sound optimistic, this might be the first step toward the eventual departure of gangs in our community, and to those criminals, we say, "Don't let the door hit you on the way out."

Inside DPS

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Conner, Terry W., 929, Commander

Goodwin, Richard B., 930, Investigator/Auditor

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Burns, Laurence V., 1974, Lieutenant

Coryell, Robert J., 1976, Sergeant II

Eyring, Michael B., 1962, Criminalist IV

Gerard, James R., 1981, Lieutenant

Hernandez, Ernest N., 1985, Sergeant

Kern, Thomas M., 1987, Sergeant II

Othic, Mark, 1994, Investigator/Auditor

Reynolds, Thomas D., 1999, Officer

Stein, John C., 2005, Sergeant II

Sturgill, Emmett J., 2006, Sergeant II

Weddle, Bruce W., 2009, Officer

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Thorsen, Christine A., 3918, Intelligence Research Specialist

NEW EMPLOYEES

Alvarado, Ricky, 6859, Officer

Alvarez, Manuel V., 6860, Officer

Bell, Robert L., 6861, Officer

Cesko, Julia K., 6880, Criminal Records Specialist

Ciminski, Lane A., 6864, Cadet Officer

Colangelo, Joseph E., 6877, Criminal Records Specialist

Edwards Jr., Dwayne L., 6865, Cadet Officer

Flaherty, Nicole N., 6873, Criminal Records Specialist

Gamez, Anthony P., 6862, Officer

Golding, Jason L., 6866, Cadet Officer

Goodwin, Roni M., 6858, Criminal Records Specialist

Hagler, Antoinette I., 6843, Criminal Records Specialist

Halama, David, 6863, Officer

Haugen, Kenneth E., 6874, Computer Forensics Analyst

Huffman, Theodore J., 6867, Cadet Officer

James, John C., 6882, Marketing Specialist

Main II, Charles F., 6868, Cadet Officer

Mansfield, Matthew L., 6879, Police Communications Dispatcher

Miller, Donald A., 6856, Telecommunications Technician

Mork, Shannon L., 6869, Cadet Officer

Newman, Scott M., 6870, Cadet Officer

Novotny, Brian., 6883, Criminal Intelligence Analyst

Rawleigh, Shian R., 6875, Administrative Secretary

Richardson, Blake L., 6871, Cadet Officer

Rodems, Jennifer L., 6878, Criminal Records Specialist

Samuel, Stella B., 6842, Criminal Records Specialist

Simpson, Katie B., 6840, Criminal Intelligence Analyst

Thatcher, Todd A., 6872, Cadet Officer

Tucker, Daniel S., 6881, Accounting Fraud Examiner

Villa, Matthew A., 6857, Cadet Officer

DEPARTURES

Bringhurst, Melanie L., 6876, Police Communications Dispatcher

Bullion, Ballard A., 350, Investigator/Auditor

Burrue, Jimmy O., 6830, Cadet Officer

Callister, Virginia Y., 6237, Officer

Campbell, James A., 5490, Officer

Fuss, Glenn S., 6841, Human Resources Analyst

Girvin, Salyna M., 6771, Police Communications Dispatcher

Griever, Richard D., 6251, Officer

Heath, Lorraine E., 6353, Criminalist

Kehowski, Judith K., 1912, Administrative Supervisor

Keydoszius, Gwen J., 4843, Police Communications Dispatcher

Knight, Richard P., 2934, Public Information Manager

Luchtman, William J., 6605, Officer

Menz, Paul J., 6205, Telecommunications Technician

Muehling, Jill R., 5458, Criminalist II

Reutter, Bridget E., 5359, Officer

Smith, Gloria J., 5245, Custodian

Stettler, Joshua S., 6578, Cadet Officer

Thompson, Gilbert N., 2338, Telecommunications Technician

Van Tassel, Lannie J., 1606, Investigator/Auditor

Wharton, Joyce C., 1189, Fingerprint Technician

Young, Chris J., 5304, Officer

RETIREMENTS

Boyd, Benita E., 3795, Criminalist IV

Cencelewski, Robert A., 2578, Sergeant II

Davis, Thomas L., 824, Officer

Desjadon, Scott A., 3269, Officer

Gonzales, Mary A., 4356, Administrative Secretary

Jenkins Jr., Lacy M., 870, Officer

Kramar, Ellery C., 1043, Rotary Wing Pilot II

Manson, Sharon L., 2554, Police Communications Supervisor

Oldsen, Gerald A., 884, Officer

Offers, Donald R., 616, Officer

Palmer Jr., Paul E., 342, Video Production Specialist

Rodriguez, Roger, 5512, Roadside Motorist Assistant

Sanders, Melvin L., 1763, Sergeant II

Vandenberg, Van E., 3080, Fleet Service Supervisor

Vaughn, Sharon K., 3154, Administrative Services Officer

BIRTHS

Officer Erik Axlund and wife, Sheila, welcomed a baby boy into the world on Dec. 12. Austin Michael joins big brother Issac, and weighed in at 7 lbs. 6 oz. and measured 19 ½ in. long.

Officer Ray Peru and his wife, Marie, had their first baby girl on Dec. 16. Liandra Rae weighed in at 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 18 ½ in.

Officer Jason Brooks and wife, Jennifer, welcomed their first daughter into the world on Dec. 21. Bella Deanne weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 in. long. Bella joins her 3-year-old brother, Noah, in the Brooks family.

Southern Narcotics Detective Jay Sosa became a proud grandfather of a baby boy on Jan. 16. Anthony Daniel weighed in at 6 lbs. 5 oz. and is Sosa's first grandchild.

Officer David Mowry and wife Karrie welcomed their 7 lb. 11 oz. baby boy into the world on Jan. 17.

District Two Officer Rob Wilkes #6392 and wife Paula had their second child, a daughter, on Jan. 19. Taylor Fay weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz.

Sgt. Brian Swanty and wife Tavi welcomed twin sons into the world on Jan. 22. Drake weighed in at 4.1 lbs. and brother Dawson weighed in at 4.8 lbs. Both boys were 16 in. long.

District Nine Officer Stirling Shupe and his wife Ani welcomed another baby boy to their family on February 11, 2007. Stirling Aden arrived weighing a healthy 7 lbs, 8 oz.

OBITUARIES

Kenneth Farnsworth, son of retired DPS officer Cecil "Bud" Farnsworth, #356, passed away on Dec. 30, 2006.

District 7 Motor Officer Mike Langley's father passed away on the morning of Jan. 7.

Bradley Weidenbach, the father of Officer Cameron Weidenbach, passed away Jan. 30.

The mother of Sgt. Tim Kvochick passed away on the morning of Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Retired DPS Officer Cecil Stephens, #324, passed away February 7.

The mother of DPS Officer Pat Eagan, #5039, died Wednesday, February 7th.

DPS retiree, Maureen Kenny #4800, passed away February 8. Maureen was a Programmer Analyst in Information Technology.

DPS Motor Officer Carri Stubblefield's father passed away February 16.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIGEST

P.O. Box 6638

Phoenix, AZ 85005

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Down the Highways

February 1967

Among the 47 cadets who will begin training Feb. 15 at the Arizona Highway Patrol Academy are Casey Berry, Deston Coleman, Herschel Eaves, Gordon Hopke, Bob Kircher, Ron Mayes, Randy Sterna, Bob Stocksdale and Gary Zimmerman, according to The Digest.

February 1972

Heroin and cocaine valued at an estimated \$375,000 were seized during the early morning hours of Feb. 10 following a desert stake-out by DPS narcotics officers.

DPS Officer Jerry Dodd said two Phoenix youths were arrested, one the son of a convicted narcotics dealer. Dodd said officers seized 28 ounces of uncut heroin and eight ounces of cocaine during the bust at an unspecified desert location near Phoenix.

January 1977

A man, seriously injured in a traffic crash near Dateland, was rushed by DPS helicopters to Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC).

The trip marked the first use of the new YRMC helipad. The craft took less than 90 minutes to fly from Phoenix, make the pickup and deliver the victim to Yuma.

Pictured in the Yuma newspaper with the craft were Pilot Jim Knapp, Paramedic Bruce Moody and DPS Lt. Richard Landis.

February 1982

Saying Arizonans should be "mad as hell" about being victims of crime, DPS Director Ralph T. Milstead called for all police to devote more resources to crime prevention. Addressing the Governor's Conference on Crime Prevention Feb. 2 in Scottsdale, Milstead said, "We need to put some resources in the front end of the problem."

"We need to tell the police departments to quit worrying about writing meaningless traffic tickets, to quit worrying about chasing joggers in Encanto Park and quit worrying about whether the Mafia controls the price of cheese," Milstead said. "We need to get our priorities straight."

January 1987

A kidnapping incident which began in Needles, Calif., ended shortly after midnight Jan. 11 near Lupton when DPS Officer Bruce Nauman used a rifle to shoot and kill a man threatening his hostage.

Gary Massey, 28, was fatally wounded when Nauman fired a single shot through the rear window of his vehicle.

The fatal shot was fired shortly after the vehicle exited I-40 at Lupton, about three miles west of the Arizona-New Mexico border, to avoid a DPS road block. After the suspect stopped, Massey pointed a pistol at his hostage several times, and DPS Sgt.

Frank Middleton instructed Nauman to shoot. The female hostage, en route to Phoenix, was kidnapped at a Needles motel.

February 1992

On the afternoon of Feb. 1, DPS Highway Patrol Sgt. Thomas Kern made a traffic stop for excess speed on I-40 that resulted in the seizure of 27 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated \$2 million.

After making the stop just west of Kingman, Kern received consent to search the vehicle. Shortly after that, DPS Canine Officer Sharon Butler arrived and her drug-sniffing dog, "Tessa," alerted on a hidden compartment behind the rear seat of the stopped vehicle. The hidden compartment contained the cocaine.

January 1997

In the end, this suspected "mule" didn't seem to mind losing his car and 537 pounds of marijuana.

DPS Officer Cesar Bon told the Duty Office that on Jan. 11 he attempted to stop a northbound 1980 Ford pickup for traffic violations which occurred about halfway between Tucson and Nogales on Interstate 19.

The motorist refused to stop so a pursuit ensued for about 15 miles. Just south of Tucson, the male suspect stopped and abandoned the vehicle, leaving behind the vehicle and contraband. He wasn't found.